

WEST COAST REGION NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES



CHANNEL ISLANDS CORDELL BANK GULF OF THE FARALLONES MONTEREY BAY OLYMPIC COAST
QUARTERLY SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL ACTIONS

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 20, 2011

Offshore Wind and Wave Energy: Progress Report from Conservation Working Group

As an update and progress report on efforts by the council's Conservation Working Group (CWG) to develop a comprehensive report on offshore wind and wave energy and how it might affect the sanctuary, CWG member Kristi Birney provided a presentation on some of the group's initial research into the topic. Kristi summarized some of the potential technologies that exist or are in development, and explained that the group will be researching these technologies further as well as their potential environmental impacts and associated policies. Looking ahead, the CWG will propose a panel of experts to speak at a future advisory council meeting. For more information contact kristi@edcnet.org.

Ocean Acidification Action Plan for West Coast Sanctuaries

Council member Linda Krop and sanctuary education coordinator Laura Francis provided a joint presentation on the draft West Coast Sanctuaries Ocean Acidification Action Plan, including the development and contents of the plan. Representatives from each sanctuary program area and each sanctuary on the west coast were involved in the plan's development, which drew on the advisory council's ocean acidification report adopted in 2008 and which is responsive to the subsequent resolutions passed at all west coast advisory councils. The plan includes strategies for monitoring, research, education, mitigation, policy, leadership, and coordination. Linda and Laura discussed activities recommended for each strategy, and council members provided comments and feedback that will be shared with regional office staff. Once finalized, the report will be available from west coast sanctuary web sites.

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

April 21, 2011

The Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council reviewed and discussed the recently released West Coast Region Ocean Acidification Plan with Dan Howard and Acting West Coast Regional Director, Carol Bernthal. Carol also briefed the council on her recent congressional visit to Washington, DC and priority projects for the West Coast Region.

June 9, 2011

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Chair and Conservation Primary seat, Lance Morgan, was honored as the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Volunteer of the Year during a short ceremony and awarded the volunteer plaque.

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 12, 2011

Council Forms Subcommittee to Review Applications for Education Alternate Seat

Council members Bob Breen (Education Primary), Dominique Richard (Community-At-Large/Marin and Sonoma) and Cicely Muldoon (Government/National Park Service) formed a Review Subcommittee to recommend candidates for the council Education Alternate Seat. They deliberated in June and subsequently passed along their recommendations to the Superintendent. The council hopes to have its newest member in place by the October retreat. For more information, contact Leslie.Abramson@noaa.gov

Council Provides Feedback on the West Coast Ocean Acidification Action Plan

Kelley Higgason, the Ocean Climate Initiative Coordinator at Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, gave a presentation on the West Coast Ocean Acidification Action Plan at the last council meeting. Council members provided direct verbal feedback, as well as followed-up via email to contribute their evaluation of the plan. This input will be integrated, as feasible, into the final report. For more information, contact Kelley.Higgason@noaa.gov

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

April 21, 2011

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) Advisory Council Supports Bans on Single Use Plastic Bags

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council approved a resolution at their April 21st meeting that supports federal, state, and local bans on single use plastic bags. The MBNMS Sanctuary Advisory Council recognized that single use plastic bags threaten a variety of marine life and are consistently among the top five most common types of litter found at beaches surrounding the MBNMS. For a copy of the resolution visit <http://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/sacact.html>.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 20, 2011

University of Michigan Student Group Travels to Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary for Research Project

A group of graduate students from the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment will be traveling from Ann Arbor, MI to Port Angeles, WA on several occasions between August 2011 and March 2012 to conduct a study as part of their graduate thesis project. The study will involve an external evaluation of the institutional relationships that Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) has with the OCNMS Advisory Council and

Intergovernmental Policy Council. The group's goal is to evaluate the contribution of OCNMS's institutional relationships to the management of the resources within the sanctuary, including the sanctuary's ability to adapt and respond to climate change. The eight-month study, which will include opportunities for the graduate students to collaborate with sanctuary staff and institutional partners, will culminate in a report and presentation of findings to OCNMS and its partners in March 2012.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Nears Completion of Management Plan Review Process

May 20, 2011

After three years of intensive Advisory Council involvement, partner consultations and public engagement, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary is on track to release its Final Management Plan/Environmental Assessment and Final Rule with changes to sanctuary regulations by the fall of 2011. The revised management plan and regulations represent the first time management guidance has been assessed and updated since the sanctuary's original designation in 1994. Action plans in the revised management plan focus on five themes: Collaborative and Coordinated Management; Research, Assessments, and Monitoring to Support Ecosystem-Based Management; Ocean Literacy; Conservation of Natural Resources; and Cultural, Historical, and Socioeconomic Significance of the sanctuary. Treaty Trust Responsibility of the sanctuary, as a federal agency, to Native American Tribes with treaty-reserved rights to natural resources in the sanctuary is articulated in one section of the document and woven throughout the revised management plan. Coastal Treaty Tribes and the state of Washington participated in the management plan review process through the Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council, the OCNMS Advisory Council, and government-to-government meetings. A significant change to sanctuary regulations is a ban on cruise ship discharges, which will protect water quality and provide regulatory consistency between West Coast sanctuaries.
